

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2019

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN UNCTAD MU

SUBJECT: OMANI REMARKS ON UNCTAD IV MEETING

REF: A) MUSCAT 401; B) STATE 78290

1. WE DISCUSSED OMANGOV OBJECTIVES IN UNCTAD IV WITH SALIM MAKKI, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. MAKKI, WHO WILL BE IN NAIROBI AS PART OF OMANI DELEGATION, STATED THAT OMANIS HAD NO PARTICULAR GOALS FOR UNCTAD IV AND THAT DELEGATION SAW MEETING AS MAINLY AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. MAKKI HIMSELF HAS LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN UN MATTERS, AND NO MEMBER OF OMANGOV DELEGATION SEEMS WELL-PREPARED ON UNCTAD ISSUES.

2. MAKKI NOTED THAT UNCTAD IV DELIBERATIONS HAVE LITTLE DIRECT INTEREST FOR OMAN AND THAT OMANDEL HAS NOT YET FORMULATED STAND ON ANY OF ITEMS ON AGENDA. WE EXPECT OMANDEL WILL PLAY GENERALLY PASSIVE
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ROLE AT NAIROBI. MAKKI BELIEVES OMANDEL WILL FOLLOW

GENERAL ARAB CONSENSUS IN ALL VOTING SITUATIONS.

3. CONCERNING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT NAIROBI, MAKKI EXPECTED THAT ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD PRESS FOR DISCUSSION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM DURING MEETING AND THAT OMAN WOULD BE OBLIGED TO SUPPORT THIS MOVE. HE FELT THAT AFRICANS AND OTHER MSA'S WOULD TRY TO GET MORE AID FROM OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES; THIS COULD EMBARRASS OMANGOV, SINCE OMAN CANNOT AFFORD TO PROVIDE ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. HE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON IMPROVING ACCESS IN WESTERN MARKETS FOR LDC COMMODITIES. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WOULD BE MANY CONCRET RESULTS FROM THE NAIROBI MEETING.

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